

Announcing

July 1998

Red River Prairie Cordgrass Natural Germplasm for:

- Wetland Restoration and Enhancement
- Streambank Stabilization
- Windstrip Barriers
- Filterstrips
- Riparian Buffers
- Prairie Landscaping

For more information contact:

USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center in Bismarck, ND,
at (701) 223-8536 (phone) and (701) 223-9024 (fax);

or your local office of the
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Red River Prairie Cordgrass

(*Spartina pectinata*)

Red River prairie cordgrass is a selected class natural germplasm release originating from vegetative collections in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Foundation and commercial seed is currently available.

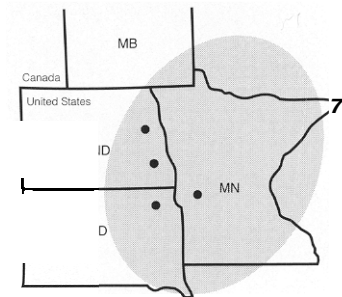
Selection:

- 0 Genetic diversity
- 0 Vigorous growth
- 0 Good seed production
- 0 Leafiness
- 0 Strong rhizome spread

Characteristics:

- 0 5 to 7 feet tall
- 0 Uniform dark green
- 0 Coarse and fine-leaved genotypes
- 0 Yellow/gold fall and winter colors
- ◇ Seed ripens early September at Bismarck, ND

Collection Sites and Projected Primary Area of Adaptation:



Origin:

- Vegetative collections from:
- 0 Grant County, Minnesota
 - ◇ Cass County, North Dakota
 - 0 Grand Forks County, North Dakota
 - 0 Day County, South Dakota

Seeds/lb.: 183,000

Seed Treatment: De-awning, debearding

Site Preferences: Wet prairies, wet meadow zone in a wetland, drainage areas; will grow on a variety of soil types

Seeding Rates: When using a drill to plant prairie cordgrass as a solid seeding, 25 seeds/sq. ft. should be adequate (6 PLS lb./ac). Small areas, such as the wet meadow zone of a wetland, would probably be broadcast seeded; and the rate should be at least doubled. When seeding wetter sites with mixtures such as big bluestem, Indiangrass, and switchgrass, prairie cordgrass should not exceed 20% of the mix.

Seeding Dates: Prairie cordgrass is a warm-season species. When conditions allow, seeding May 10 - June 20 is preferred. When the area to be seeded is too wet to seed in the spring, a dormant seeding after October 20 is an option. Preliminary results indicate prairie cordgrass can be successfully established as a dormant seeding.

Other Remarks: Prairie cordgrass is generally planted only in areas receiving extra moisture, such as drainage areas, wetlands, seeps, etc. Prairie cordgrass spreads quite rapidly by rhizomes: and once it's established on an appropriate site, it should have excellent longevity. Stands should improve over time, even when they are thin initially. A small percentage of seed planted on the appropriate site may be adequate in getting a population of prairie cordgrass established. Prairie cordgrass provides excellent upright habitat for wildlife, and the forage has fair nutritive quality when harvested early. Prairie cordgrass is moderately tolerant of high salt conditions. Establishment has been good using rhizomes for plantings such as windstrip barriers.